



**Talbot County Department of Planning and Zoning
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board
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February 21, 2018

Agenda

1. Election of Commission Chair & terms of membership.

An election for Board Chair should be held annually at the first meeting of the calendar year. Bylaws currently state that meetings will be held on an as-needed basis and may be called by any Board member or of the Department of Planning. Members are appointed by the County Council for a 5 year period, on a staggered schedule of one member each year.

See below notes on Open Meetings Act training for County Boards and Commissions.

2. Review of 2017 application round and land acquisitions.

In total, 54 applications were received for considered for July 2016 consideration. MALPF would accept the top eight ranked applications from each county, unless the local government agreed to pay for additional appraisals in order to be considered for an easement sale.

2017 MALPF Applications Talbot County

	Owner	Map	Parcel	Acres	Rank Points
1	<u>Brooks, John & Sherrill</u>		19 55	165	394.515
2	Behrens, Gordon Salisbury		5 113	67	392.388
3	Brooks Roy		43 47	341	386.630
4	Fisher, Dave and Lu Ann		19 30	150.4	379.762
5	<u>Harris Steve</u>		55 93	96	374.630
6	Behrens, Gordon Sanca		12 22	67	372.393
7	Hutchison Paul		26 7	152	368.553
8	<u>Sump, Mark & Vicki</u>		12 25	67.8	367.268

Applicant 1 accepted a full value offer. Applicants 6 and 8 received discount offers after the preceding applicants rejected offers in this round.

3. MARBIDCO Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program (Next Gen Program).

The Board discussed this program at our last meeting. MARBIDCO accepted applications in the summer of 2017 and one contract was awarded to a Talbot County family on a farm off Wrights Mill Rd.

The new owners may now apply through the MALPF to sell an easement with the settlement going towards the debt on their farm. This raises several questions for this Board as we try to make a settlement possible through our program as it stands or can be amended. We have agreed with MARBIDCO to give the process seven years.

4. Possible alterations to application ranking program.

MALPF applicants can earn 100 points in 10 best management practices, improving the rank on easement applications. Ten points for cover crop are practically a giveaway since participation in Talbot County is so high. There is not enough time to have changes approved by MALPF before applications go in this year.

5. Priority Preservation Area Recertification Report.

Talbot received certification for dedicating a Priority Preservation Area covering the eastern half of the County. Legislation is under consideration to extend the certification period to five years.

6. County Zoning Ordinance update.

There are few significant changes in the draft Next Step 190 that impact agriculture. There are amendments proposed to allow chickens on smaller properties. There are also modifications to allowances for home based businesses, short term rentals noise and outdoor music or on farm events.

Visit <https://www.nextstep190.com> for the draft ordinance or attend a work session February 21, 2018 at 3pm in the Community Center Wye Oak Room. The Planning Commission and County Council will hold a joint work session on **February 22, 2018 at 5pm** at the Community Center. A Planning Commission work session will also take place on March 7th.

7. Open Meetings Act Requirements

According to the act all public bodies, including this Board, are subject to these new requirements. Every public body member is required to take a State-approved Open Meetings Act training. The online training is free of charge.

The easiest way to take the training is on online at http://www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class_oma_introl.php

The lessons and quizzes of the training build upon each other, so it is best to review them chronologically. You can exit the class and return at a later time. At the end of the training, you will receive a certificate. Please be sure to hold on to the certificate because the online system does not track who completes the training.

8. Next meeting date.